UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.3/1993/4/Add.2
25 February 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Twenty-seventh session
22 February-3 March 1993
Agenda item 4 (a)

NATIONAL ACCOUNTS AND BALANCES: SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS (SNA)

Recommendations of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts on specific issues concerning the revised SNA

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

Addendum

1. The Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) makes the following recommendations on a possible approach to financial intermediation service charges indirectly measured:

(a) Accept the present statement in the text that "in principle, the total output should be allocated among uses for which no explicit charge is made";

(b) Permit those countries or groups of countries that cannot at present allocate these charges explicitly to specify users to allocate them all to intermediate use (the 1968 SNA de facto solution);

(c) Permit those countries or groups of countries that can allocate charges to both intermediate and final use to do so;

(d) Request those countries that allocate charges entirely to intermediate consumption to prepare, as soon as they can, supplementary estimates showing an explicit allocation to specific users and the effect this has on gross domestic product (GDP), gross national income (GNI) and other relevant aggregates;

(e) Request those countries that allocate charges to both intermediate and final use to identify separately those allocations.

The information provided in the last two elements of the proposal would facilitate international comparisons on either basis.

While this is not an ideal solution, it does allow the conceptual framework to recognize that these services can be provided to final users, while permitting sufficient flexibility to countries under different circumstances.

In addition, it would be useful if the Statistical Commission could request ISWGNA to place the highest priority on developing practical guidelines for implementation in the near future. This work should draw on the experiences of those countries that are currently implementing, or that are about to implement, a system of full allocation in order to review their procedures, and also on the work recently done in some countries that indicated major impediments to full allocation.